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YOU

CAN HELP!

REPORT
DRUG SMUGGLING
TO
U.S. CUSTOMS

1 (800) BE ALERT

READEX FICHE

T17.2:

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SMUGGLING AWARENESS PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to establish and implement a successful smuggling awareness effort in every general aviation community. It will provide you, the local citizens, an easy method and opportunity to give information about smuggling to Customs and allow you to remain anonymous.

CASH REWARDS

Customs will pay cash rewards ranging from $250 to $2,500 for anonymous information, or up to $250,000 to a documented confidential source, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of drug smugglers or to the seizure of illegal drugs or conveyances used in drug smuggling. The size of the reward will depend on the circumstances of the case and the results.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
1-800-BE-ALERT
24 HOURS A DAY

HOW TO DETECT A SMUGGLER

United States Customs would like the local general aviation community to be on the lookout for potential drug smugglers. A number of characteristics have been found to be common among air smuggling operations. Among them, and worthy of arousing suspicion, are:

In Flight

- Low altitude flight with sudden climb near established airport.
- No response on radio when challenged.
- Passenger seats missing from aircraft.
- Aircraft windows covered by curtains or temporarily taped over.
- Numerous boxes, duffel bags, plastic bags, or other containers inside the aircraft.
- Aircraft flying or landing after dark without lights.

Upon Landing

- Trucks, campers, or vans waiting at or near area suitable to aircraft landings; often equipped with radios for use in communications with an aircraft.
- Landing at provisional runways in a desolate area lit by vehicle headlights, signal fires, or lanterns.
- Refueling from 55 gallon drums or from the back of pick-up trucks.

On the Ground

- Paint chipped, muddy wheels, dirty or dusty aircraft, beat-up propellers or other evidence of operating from dirt strips.
- Strong or unusual odors, such as perfume, emanating from the aircraft. These are used to cover the scent of marijuana.
- Over-inflated air shocks and oversized tires used to accommodate larger payloads.
- Aircraft with new paint, added doors, extra fuel tanks, and false or altered registration numbers.
- Aircraft parked a long distance from the line shack or at the far end of the ramp.
- Pilot or passengers reluctant to leave the aircraft unattended during ground servicing.
- Pilot or passengers displaying large amounts of cash and/or making cash payments for fuel and services.

TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY CALL 1-800-BE-ALERT 24 HOURS A DAY

You need only follow these few steps to report suspicious activity to U.S. Customs. By reporting these activities you will not only remain anonymous, but also perform a great service to preserve and protect your general aviation community.

- **Be Alert:** In your observations, note the date, time, and location of activity and write this information down. Take extra care to note any registration numbers or distinctive features of the suspects.
- **Be Accurate:** Call U.S. Customs toll free at **1-800-BE-ALERT.** Tell the officer that you have information about narcotics smuggling activities. Ask for your special caller identification number. You will be given a code number to protect your identity. After you receive your caller number give an accurate account of your information to the Customs officer.
- **Follow Through:** Call Customs again at **1-800-BE-ALERT** ten days after your initial contact. Identify yourself by your assigned code, at this time you can learn if any action resulted from your information and if so, you can arrange for payment of your cash reward.

You can make a difference! Your participation in this vital program can be a big first step in securing a safe airport, free of any drug smugglers.

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